

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 L-03

DRC-01 /056 W

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O 250020Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1099

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 5102

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AMERICAN SITUATION

REF: STATE 208669

1. MESSRS. DAVISON, WILSON AND PORRAS OF PAN AM CALLED ON CHARGE LATE OCTOBER 24 TO REPORT ON THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH MINCOMMUNICATIONS ANZUETO EARLIER SAME DAY. ANZUETO HAD PRESENTED THEM WITH PROVISIONAL AUTHORIZATION FOR OCTOBER 28 SCHEDULE, WITH SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FROM PAN AM'S REQUEST. AS EXPECTED, SAN PEDRO FLIGHT DENIED. MORE SURPRISING, TUESDAY AND SATURDAY NEW ORLEANS FLIGHTS DENIED; PRACTICAL EFFECT THESE DENIALS PROBABLY WOULD LIMIT PAN AM TO ONE ROUND TRIP NEW ORLEANS- GUATEMALA FLIGHT PER WEEK. FINALLY, COMING AS COMPLETE SURPRISE, GOG HAS DENIED PAN AM FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS ON FOUR OF ITS SEVEN PROGRAMMED WEEKLY MEXICO CITY FLIGHTS.

2. ANZUETO ALSO REPORTEDLY BROUGHT UP ISSUE OF PAN AM SEEKING CAB 213 ACTION. HE TOLD DAVISON THAT BROWN HAD MADE THAT THREAT. OBVIOUSLY IRRITATED, HE REITERATED FOR DAVISON'S BENEFIT WHAT HE HAD TOLD BROWN, THAT IF PAN AM PERSUADES CAB TO CURTAIL AVIATECA HE WILL DENY ALL OF PAN AM'S RIGHTS IN GUATEMALA. (DURING CALL ON ANZUETO LAST WEEK, CHARGE BROUGHT UP
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SUBJECT OF PAN AM, SAYING THAT AS AMBASSADOR BOWDLER

HAD INDICATED PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, USG MOST INTERESTED IN SEEING EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO SCHEDULE PROBLEM. ANZUETO EXPRESSED HIS IRRITATION WITH BROWN'S "THREATS" TO HIM AND SAID HE HAD INDICATED TO PAN AM THAT IF THE COMPANY SOUGHT "RESTRICTIONS" ON AVIATECA, HE WOULD CLOSE DOWN PAN AM OPERATIONS IN GUATEMALA.)

3. COMMENT: WHILE GROWING DEPTH OF FEELING WITHIN GOG AGAINST PAN AM NOT FULLY EXPLAINABLE, IT DOES SEEM POSSIBLE THAT BROWN MAY HAVE HOISTED SELF ON OWN PETARD WITH HIS VEILED THREAT. CERTAINLY SINCE THAT DATE ANZUETO HAS BECOME PERSONALLY AGITATED AND HAS HARDENED POSITION.

4. SINCE IN OUR CONTACT WITH PAN AM IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT REFTEL YESTERDAY AFTERNOON THEY TOLD US THEY HAD APPOINTMENT WITH ANZUETO THIS MORNING, AND SINCE WE HAD SEEN HIM PRIOR RECEIPT REFTEL, WE HAVE NOT YET ATTEMPTED SEE ANZUETO AGAIN. AT THIS POINT, ALTHOUGH WE CAN OF COURSE SEE ANZUETO AGAIN WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS, BECAUSE OF EMOTIONAL OVERTONES TO ISSUE, NO MATTER HOW APPROACH PHRASED, ANZUETO MIGHT INTERPRET IT AS UNDUE PRESSURE BY PAN AM (AND INEVITABLY USG) AND IMPETUOUSLY ACT UPON THREAT TO DENY ALL RIGHTS TO PAN AM. ALTHOUGH FAILURE TO SECURE AGREED UPON SCHEDULE AUTHORIZATION BEFORE OCT. 28 WILL CAUSE DIFFICULTIES, WE BELIEVE IT BEST TO DELAY OUR APPROACH UNTIL DEPTH AND MOTIVATION OF GOG POSITION CAN BE PROBED. TO DO SO WILL REQUIRE DISCREET AND INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN ARENALES, WHO RETURNS GUATEMALA OCT. 28. IN MEANTIME, RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT CONTACT BROWN OF PAN AM TO FORSTALL ANY POSSIBLE UNTIMELY APPROACH TO CAB BY PAN AM. WILSON IS ALSO CONTACTING HIS NEW YORK OFFICE AND WILL SUGGEST BROWN OR OTHER OFFICIAL DISCUSS ISSUE WITH ARENALES IN NEW YORK. SHOULD BE NOTED THAT WHEN CHARGE ASKED WILSON IF HE HAD SEEN PRESIDENT ARANA ABOUT MATTER, WILSON SAID HE HAD NOT AND DID NOT WANT TO DO SO, SINCE HE BELIEVED ARANA FELT STRONGLY ABOUT SUBJECT AND HE DID NOT WANT TO EVOKE A NEGATIVE ANSWER FROM THE PRESIDENT WITH REGARD TO CHANGING ANZUETO'S DECISION.

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5. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT.
DREYFUSS

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